

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-21 were originally filed and are now subject to a Restriction Requirement.

In response to the Office Action mailed December 23, 2008, Group I containing claims 1-16 have been elected herein, Group II containing claims 17-21 have been withdrawn.

Accordingly, claims 1-16 are pending for examination, of which claim 1 is in independent form.

Applicants respectfully request examination of the claims in view of the election and remarks.

II. Applicants Elect Group I for Examination

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-16) for examination.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request examination and allowance of the claims. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762.

Respectfully submitted,
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